



**MINUTES**  
**OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**August 4, 2009**

**MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr. Reg Dexter, District V, Council Chairman  
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Mario Suarez, District III, Chairman Pro Tem  
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

Oconee County Council met on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, Kendra Brown, Interim Administrator, Thomas L. Martin County Attorney and Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council present.

**Press:**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [[www.oconeese.com/council](http://www.oconeese.com/council)]. In addition it was made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Ashton Hestor – Keowee Courier, Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent & Carlos Galarza - Daily Journal.

**Call to Order:**

Mr. Dexter called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mr. Suarez led the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 that the minutes from the July 21, 2009 regular meeting be adopted as printed.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 that the minutes from the July 25, 2009 Special Council meeting regarding the Administrator Position be adopted as printed.

**Presentation of Award by Department of Disabilities & Special Needs:**

Mr. Dexter recognized Mr. Bob Lindgren, Chair of the Oconee County Board of Disabilities & Special Needs, who addressed Council announcing that Oconee County had received at the annual South Carolina Association of Counties meeting the previous week the 2008 Golden Palmetto Award for the county's support for and work at the Tribble Center. Mr. Lindgren thanked the Council for their years of support for the Center and citizens of Oconee County served by the department.

## **Public Comment Session:**

Mr. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding her concerns about Ordinance 2009-14 and her concern that access to information relating to Duke Energy has been denied her. Ms. Cornelius also provided Council with a handout [filed with these minutes] regarding Duke Energy being denied a water quality permit for the Catawba-Wateree hydroelectric project.

## **Extended Public Comment Session:**

No Citizens signed up to speak during Extended Public Comment at this meeting.

## **Consideration of the following Ordinances:**

### **Ordinance 2008-21:**

Mr. Dexter noted that **Ordinance 2008-21** “AN ORDINANCE REPLACING ORDINANCE 2005-06, THE FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE” was being removed from consideration for second reading at this meeting as further work needed to be done. Second reading of this ordinance is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2009.

### **Ordinance 2009-14:**

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2009-14** “AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT OF TRUST INDENTURE AND AMENDEMENT AND RESTATEMENT OF LOAN AGREEMENT RELATING TO \$77,000,000 OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 1993 (DUKE POWER COMPANY PROJECT) (THE “BONDS”) TO PROVIDE FOR CHANGE IN INTEREST RATE FROM VARIABEL RATE TO FIXED RATE, TO PROVIDE FOR APPOINTMENT OF WACHOVIA BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS REMARKETING AGENT, REMARKETING OF THE BONDS AND EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS RELATING THERETO, AND TO PROVIDE FOR CHANGE IN COLLATERAL SUPPORT FOR THE BONDS BY DELIVERY OF FIRST AND REFUNDING MORTGAGE BONDS ISSUES BY DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS, LLC” on second reading.

### **Ordinance 209-17:**

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2009-17** “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 BUDGET APPROPRIATES ORDINANCE FOR OCONEE COUNTY” on first reading [in title only].

## **Items for Consideration by Council:**

### **Recommendation of 2 Community Leaders per Council member to participate in the selection of the new Administrator:**

Mr. Dexter opened for floor for recommendations by each Council member for the committee.

Mr. Suarez recommended: **Mr. Gary Owens & Mr. William “Ham” Hudson.**

Mr. Thrift recommended: **Mr. Greg Dietterick & Mr. Derek Hodgins.**

Mr. McCall recommended: **Mr. C. W. Richards.**

Mr. McCall noted that he would inform Council regarding his second appointment after contact with the interested party.

Mr. Dexter recommended: **Mrs. Rosemary Bailes & Mr. Mendel Stone.**

Mr. Dexter asked that the Clerk to Council work with Administration to notify each party and provide them with instructions for service along with a confidentiality agreement. In addition, he noted that the group should plan to review the applications/resumes between August 10<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. McCall asked for a discussion regarding the date for the meeting with the Civic leaders. Discussion followed without a decision. Mr. Dexter noted that he would notify all members once a date/time is established.

**VetFest Committee / Request to Use Courthouse Grounds for Veterans Weekend Charity Event / Cost Unknown**

Mr. Phil Shirley, PRT Director, and Mr. Lindon Ashworth, CVB, addressed Council outlining the events planned for the Veterans weekend charity event. Mr. Shirley noted that a vendor is providing a generator and the request for electricity is not longer needed. Discussion followed.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to approve use of the Courthouse grounds and Short Street for the charity event as outlined in the AIS.

**Emergency Services / 7 MSA Thermal Imaging Cameras / \$68,635 / Sole Source-State Contract**

Mr. Rodney Burdette, Emergency Services Director, addressed Council stating that the Thermal Imaging Cameras give firefighters and first responders the ability to quickly locate fires in smoke filled rooms with no visibility, locate fires hidden in walls and ceilings, determine the direction in which the fire is moving and detect conditions which would produce flashover and back draft situations.

The purchase of the 7 cameras will allow all fire trucks to be equipped with a unit. These units would go to: Station 2, 4, 8, 14, 16, 21 and Hazmat. MSA has only two authorized dealers that are allowed to sell thermal imaging equipment for Oconee County; Safe Industries is the only MSA dealer on State Contract.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to award to Safe Industries [as a sole source vendor] \$68,635 for the purchase of seven MSA thermal imaging cameras as outlined in the AIS.

**Solid Waste / Professional Services Contract-B.P. Barber & Associates / \$134,310**

Mr. Swain Still, Solid Waste Director, addressed Council regarding this request to approve this contract for groundwater monitoring and the installation of wells as follow:

- Class II Landfill 1201 – new groundwater monitoring wells install, sampling & analysis \$28,850
- Class II Landfill 1202 – new groundwater monitoring wells install, sampling & analysis \$26,350
- MSWLF Groundwater Assessment – install, sample & analyze wells \$55,400
- Revised Methane Monitoring Plan – install new probes \$11,500

Discussion followed.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to approve \$134,310 to B. P. Barber & Associates for professional services related to the groundwater monitoring and the installation of wells as outlined above and on the AIS.

**Bid 08-32 / Airport / Runway 25 & Parallel Taxiway Extension / \$68,811=Match**

Ms. Robyn Courtright, Procurement Director, addressed Council regarding the request for approval to award Bid 08-32 for runway 25 and parallel taxiway extension. She noted that the work to be performed under this contract includes pavement removal, excavation &

embankment, grading, drainage, paving, marking, seeding & mulching, and airfield lighting modifications.

On July 7, 2009 formal sealed bids [10] were opened with Plateau Excavation of Austell, GA submitting low bid \$3,451,481.50. This request is for the County Match portion only in the amount of \$68,811.

<u>Grant</u>	<u>FAA Share</u>	<u>SC State Share</u>	<u>Oconee Share</u>
AIP 17	\$1,315,749	\$ 34,625	\$ 34,625
AIP 18	\$ 98,129	\$ 2,582	\$ 2,582
AIP 19 [pending]	\$2,614,822	\$ 68,811	\$ 68,811

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to award Bid 08-32 to Plateau Excavation contingent upon receipt of the FAA grant listed above; with the county match portion equaling \$68,811.

### **Council Committee Reports:**

#### **Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee:**

Mr. McCall read from a prepared statement regarding items discussed [Improved ISO rating related to the Walhalla/Westminster substation & an upcoming request regarding thermal cameras] and actions taken at the July 22, 2009 which were recommended to Council for action as follows:

#### **Distribution of County Funds to Volunteer Departments [copy filed with these minutes]:**

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to approve implementation of the distribution guidelines of county funds to volunteer departments as outlined in the document.

#### **Part-time Fire / Rescue Personnel [copy filed with these minutes]:**

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to approve implementation of the 1 year trial period in which 7 part time staff will be added; each working 8 hours per shift, 3 days per week [each day at a different station] for a maximum of 24 hours as outlined in the document.

Mr. McCall noted the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at Pine Street.

### **Commission / Board Reports to Council:**

None at this meeting; upcoming reports are as follow:

*Planning Commission will report on August 18, 2009  
Scenic Highway Committee will report on September 1, 2009  
Library Board will report on September 15, 2009*

### **Board & Commission Appointments:**

#### **Fireman's Insurance & Inspection Fund Board**

Mr. Dexter deferred appointments to this board pending a report from the Treasurer, Gregorie Nowell, stating if current members wish reappointment.

## **Administrator's Report:**

### **MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA;**

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to amend the agenda to discuss acceptance of a State of South Carolina Aeronautics Commission grant.

### **South Carolina Aeronautics Commission Project # 09-19 Grant:**

Ms. Brown reviewed with Council the state's grant [copy of letter/grant filed with these minutes] noting that the this relates to the state's 2.5% funding related to the FAA Grant #18 in the amount of \$2,582.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to accept the State grant as outlined above.

### **Old Business:**

No Old Business was addressed at this meeting.

### **New Business:**

#### **Blue Ribbon Panel to Study/Report to Council regarding Water & Sewer in Oconee County:**

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to appoint a Panel of citizens [two appointees for each district] to study water and sewer issues [utilizing current studies and other information] with emphasis on the I85 corridor and the Golden Corner Commerce Park.

This Panel is to make a recommendation to Council within 90-120 days regarding what they identify as the best option for Oconee County in order to not only the needs of today but also with an eye on future needs.

Mr. Thrift asked that each Council member be prepared to have their two appointees ready for recommendation and ratification at the August 18, 2009 Council meeting.

### **Adjourn:**

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Elizabeth G. Hulse  
Clerk to Council